[25th November 1955

Selection for the S.S.L.C. Examination.

* 2839 *Q.*—Sri K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation recently from the Malabar District Board to discontinue the system of detaining students in S.S.L.C. classes in high schools; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The President, District Board, Malabar, was informed that the Government did not propose to discontinue the practice of detention in the S.S.L.C. class in secondary schools.

Sri K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR : May I know the reasons for the refusal of the Government to accept the recommendations of the district board?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : The reason is that the students' eligibility to appear for the examinations should not only depend upon an external examination but the headmasters and the teachers in the schools also should have a say in the matter. That is why where the headmasters feel that certain students should not be sent up for the examination, they should have a say in the matter.

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Sir, are the Government aware of the recommendations made by the Secondary Education Commission and, if so, will the Government see that the present system with regard to the detention of pupils is revised and the recommendations of the Commission implemented?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : No, Sir. As far as I am concerned, I am convinced that this detention system is necessary. It should not be thought that there is some class conflict between the teachers and the taught. As a matter of fact, there should be complete co-operation and the teachers in the schools must have a say with reference to the students being sent up for the examination.

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, personally I do not object to the principle of detention. But the management are viewing it from the point of income from fees collection so that from the lower classes they promote indiscriminately without considering the qualification to the high school classes and ultimately when the students reach the S.S.L.C. class, they are prevented from appearing in large numbers. Will the Government see that even at the lower level, some test is instituted so that the detention may be less at the higher level?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir. As a matter of fact, the aim of the Government is that there should be examinations in the fourth and fifth form levels also and if the hon. Member's basis is correct, it only shows that the management also

are having a say in the promotion and detention of the pupils and it should not be so. It should be purely the province of the Headmasters and the teachers either to promote or detain students.

SRI S. T. ADITYAN : Considering the fact that some of the schools are sending up for the S.S.L.C. examination only a few boys in order to show a higher percentage of passes and say that out of 25 boys sent up, 20 have passed, will the Government compel the schools to put up on the notice board a list of the number of students who were studying in the S.S.L.C. class, the number who were sent up and the number who passed the examination. 8-40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The hon. Member's suggestion is based merely on assumptions which are not correct. As I said in answer to question 2838, in the whole State only 24 candidates were detained in 1955.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Originally the practice was to hold a selection examination for selection of candidates for sending up for the Public Examination. After a lot of agitation in the State, selection examination was given up for one or two years and all the candidates were sent up for the examination. What is the lesson that this Government have learnt from a comparative study of the results during the Selection Examination years and the non-selection-examination years and what is the convincing reason of the Government for imposing the Selection Examination once again?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It is not merely a question of results of the examination. We have to maintain proper discipline in the schools. Students should feel that the Headmasters have a say in the matter of sending up students for the examination. For the maintenance of discipline and for the proper conduct of students, it is necessary to vest this power in the headmasters.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : I think the Hon. Minister presumed from my question that I was pleading against the detention system. That was not my intention. After the students are selected on the basis of the results of the Selection Examination and before they actually sit for the examination, some students are prohibited from appearing for the examination. A committee or board on which the headmaster also is represented has recently been constituted to go into this question. As a matter of fact, this power in the hands of the committee has been used as a measure of vindictiveness. That is why I suggest that this arrangement may be withdrawn.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : My view is that we should have absolute confidence and faith in the impartiality of the headmasters. If we begin distrusting headmasters who are in charge of students, then there will be no end to it. Therefore I would request hon. Members, especially those who belong to the

teaching profession, to have faith in the impartiality of headmasters. A few erring headmasters should not be made the basis for making a general accusation of vindictiveness on the part of headmasters as a whole.

Awards by Industrial Tribunals.

* 2840 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation alleging non-implementation of the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 7th July 1954, regarding Industrial Dispute No. 18 of 1949 by which 122 owners of handloom factories in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, have to give bonus for their workers for the years 1946, 1947 and 1948 and if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. The Government have ordered the prosecution of the managements of ten handloom factories which have not implemented the award. The workers have been advised through their Union to put in claim petitions under section 20 of the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950. The claims received by the Government are being verified by the Labour Officer, Mangalore.

Sri K. P. GOPALAN : According to the Industrial Disputes Act, the Government have to take action if an award is not implemented within one month from the date of the award. This is a question about the workers getting bonus for the year 1946. Nine years have elapsed. May I know why the Government have delayed taking action against the managements and whether they will be pleased to instruct the Collector of Malabar to realise the amount from the factory owners under the Madras Land Revenue Recovery Act?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Government have to take certain steps before ordering prosecution. A show cause notice has to be issued and we have to wait till the stipulated time for receipt of the reply. After the receipt of the reply, we have to verify certain things and that will take some time. The Government are taking all possible steps to have the dues recovered under the existing law.

Sri K. T. SREEDHARAN : Why should the Government launch prosecution proceedings only against the managements of ten factories instead of against all the managements who have defaulted in this matter?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Out of the 123 handloom factories covered by this award, the managements of 105 factories are reported to have implemented the award.